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The Source of Manpower and Womanpower

AN Editorial

REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director of Extension Work

■ What is the source of America's manpower and womanpower? The family-sized farm. Vice President Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture, said in 1937: "One of the objectives of a national farm program should be to encourage the maintenance of the family-sized farm not only as an efficient operating unit, but as the source of manpower and womanpower for our cities as well as our farmers."

Every year, in the United States, we have, at least, 100,000 highly productive farms for which new management must be found. The new management needed may be due to the death or retirement of the owner, the moving of the tenant, or the resignation or discharge of the farm manager. In any case, it is vital that the productivity of the farm be maintained and that it be properly managed. This is important to the owner, to the community, to the county, and to the Nation. Such a farm is an important asset that must not become impaired.

On the other hand, we have in the farming counties and communities of each State, and in the Nation, many thousands of young men and women able and anxious to locate on productive farms and to pursue their livelihood there as farmers and rural homemakers. Through these young people, and in no other way, can we protect and develop this source for manpower and womanpower.

What we want is to get these earnest and able young people onto these productive farms and to have them living on and operating these farms in an environment that will guarantee to their communities and to the Nation an adequate and steady flow of fully equipped and highly trained young men and women from these farms to other farms needing managers and homemakers and to the cities to engage in industrial and business pursuits. Therefore, about the most practical thing we can do for our older rural youth is to see to it that in every community the right people are located on the right farms and are equipped to live and operate under the right environment.

This should not be an effort conducted solely by county extension workers. These workers, rather, should be the vigorous advocates and stimulators of such an effort on the part of all the public-spirited and patriotic men and women of the communities in their respective counties, regardless of whether they are living in the open country or in town.

Let us contrast this democratic method of accomplishing this objective with the method employed by the Nazi leadership in Germanizing rural Europe. Let me recall to you what has happened in Poland since it was conquered by the German armies. Once Poland was under control, the German leadership instituted a rapid but comprehensive appraisal of the conquered country's resources. This included the determination of the most productive agricultural areas. Next, the Polish farmers operating the farms in these areas began to be moved to marginal or submarginal farm areas in Poland or were transported to Germany to provide farm labor needed on German farms the manpower of which had been taken by the German armies. Following this move, around 100,000 German farmers and their families began to be moved to the vacated productive farms of Poland, and the real program of Germany for the permanent occupancy of Poland had begun.

What we must do to make our proposed program for rural older youth practical, effective, and highly vital to the Nation is to start immediately on our own effort to conserve the human and natural resources of our rural communities.

Are we, as extension workers, prepared to accept and make the most of this opportunity? I hope so. This most practical program, in my judgment, supplies a motive for the stimulation and coordination of future extension endeavor that far transcends in its possible influence that of any other one activity in which we are now engaged. It is a job for the whole extension staff to do, and we must have every member of the Extension Service staff of every State enthusiastic and militant in its promotion.

The significance of this important effort to our communities, to the Nation, and to extension work, was forcefully expressed in the closing paragraph of an address made at Birmingham in 1940 by J. W. Bateman, former State extension director in Louisiana, who at that time was president of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers. Mr. Bateman said:

"The wealth and security of this country rest not in skyscrapers and bridges of concrete and steel, nor in the gold reposing in the vaults of our banks, but in the millions of competent, satisfied, self-contained farm families; yes—educated, well-clothed, well-fed, and healthy, dwelling in the little farm homes that dot the hills and valleys of our great land. The farmer and his family, as an independent, resourceful unit of self-reliant living, is the primary element of a rural society. Here rests the foundation of social and economic stability — the security of government.

"The hope for the future lies here."

■ THE COVER this month shows Mrs. Albert O'Neal, one of the army of successful farm men and women who lead extension groups in their local communities. As leader of the Union Grove 4–H Club, Allegany County, Md., for almost a quarter of a century, Mrs. O'Neal now helps the daughters of some of her earlier girls. Her home is always open to the girls who come with their cans and their produce or their sewing to learn methods by which she has been winning prizes at the county fair for many years.

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • M. L. WILSON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

The Farmer Defends Defense

M. CLIFFORD TOWNSEND, Director, Office of Agricultural Defense Relations, United States Department of Agriculture

■ The whole Nation—in fact the whole world—is watching our tremendous drive to produce airplanes, tanks, ships, guns, powder, rifles, and the thousand and one things needed to achieve the goal of a 2-million-man Army, a 2-ocean Navy, and a greatly expanded air force.

The clatter of factories, the whir of airplane wings, and the march of men back to work are on the spectacular and easily visible side of national defense. Even more apparent is the march of those who can meet strict age and physical requirements into the great armed force the United States is now training in the Nation's first peacetime conscription. These are spectacular, colorful, apparent things that all can see and feel.

On the other hand, few people get excited over the idea of putting food on our soldiers' tables, clothes on their backs, shoes on their feet, blankets on their beds, tents over their heads, and supplying the scores of other items of equipment which come from American farms and ranches.

Many nonfarm people take these things for granted. They applaud and cheer when a new ship slides down the ways because that is defense they can see, but accept as routine the miracle of three meals a day from the Nation's farms, not only for our armed forces but for all of America and, more recently, part of Great Britain.

As a matter of fact, the farmer defends defense, for without food there would be no one to defend anything.

But we must admit that, in the current excitement and rapidity of doing things, it is sometimes difficult for nonfarm groups to see what agriculture has already done, what agriculture is doing, and what agriculture is prepared to do.

In general, we have tremendous supplies of our major export crops, such as cotton, tobacco, and wheat. In this time of national emergency we can thank our lucky stars that agriculture has already done a great job of storing up vital supplies of food and fiber.

But agriculture found, as the defense effort went along and the needs of the British were added to our own, that increased production of some food products was necessary if we were to feed our fighting friends abroad and avoid meatless and milkless days in our own country. Without waiting for actual shortages to develop, without waiting until our own people were doing without or paying outrageous prices, agriculture went ahead to meet the challenge of increased production.

Fortunately, agriculture has the organization, the leadership on the farms, and the farm plant to do the job. The same machinery that has been used in the past to adjust production downward is just as effective in adjusting production upward.

So, when the decision was reached that more of some food products would be needed to feed our people and the nations receiving assistance under the Lend-Lease Act, it was a comparatively simple matter for the Department of Agriculture to put this machinery to work. Farmers had known all along of the flexibility of their program, but I believe that a great many laymen realized it for the first time on April 3 when Secretary of Agriculture Wickard announced the food-for-defense program. In brief, this program utilizes the existing machinery of the national farm programs, including purchases at prices at about parity, to encourage farmers to produce more of the products we need, such as pork, chickens, eggs, dried beans, tomatoes, and dairy products, particularly cheese, evaporated milk, and dry skim milk.

Of all these programs to increase production, probably none is more important than the effort to increase milk production. The British are looking to us for food, and in the field of dairy products we find some of their most important needs. Concentrated foods that require less shipping space are what the British are looking for. This need, coupled with the food habits of the British people, has naturally led to a large demand for cheese, evaporated milk, and dry skim milk from the United States.

In order to meet this enlarged export demand for dairy products and the increasing consumer demand in this country, the Secretary of Agriculture has launched a campaign to increase milk production in the United States by 6 to 8 percent. The effectiveness of that campaign, stimulated by the national farm program, already is apparent.

Agriculture cannot afford to wait for a "squeeze" to develop before doing something about it. If a defense manufacturer spends 30 to 60 days arguing the terms of a contract, all that is lost is 1 or 2 months' production. This is regrettable, of course; but, if necessary, the manufacturer can run additional shifts later on and make up the loss. But the farmer cannot work that way. If it is planting time, and he spends 30 to 60 days arguing over whether to increase production, we have lost the production for a full season because the farmer's operations are limited by nature. When the growing season is over, all he can do is sit and wait until the next season begins.

The manufacturer can step up production on short notice. If it is just a matter of producing more of an already established unit, all he has to do, assuming he has the raw materials, is to operate his plant longer hours. But there is no way on earth for a farmer to produce more beef unless he plans to have more at least a year and a half to 2 years in advance of the time he wants to market the cattle.

Farmers understand these things. That is why they are prepared to do the jobs they are suddenly called upon to perform in an emergency. In what we have already done, in what we are doing, and in what we are prepared to do, agriculture needs the continued and sympathetic understanding of the American people.

Unit Demonstrations Lead to Community Development

H. C. HOLMES, Assistant Extension Economist, Tennessee

Henry County, Tenn., provides an excellent example of the development of the combined farm and home program. In this county, which is located in northwest Tennessee, just about every problem that is usually found in a county is present; and all of the usual agricultural agencies are operating.

The land varies from fertile river bottoms, much of which will be inundated by the Kentucky Dam, to some of the best, as well as some of the poorest upland to be found in the State. Cotton, corn, hogs, dark tobacco, dairying, sweetpotatoes, cattle, sheep, poultry, and seed are all important, in varying degrees, in different sections of the county.

The county agricultural extension service personnel is composed of a county farm agent, Paul Horton; a home demonstration agent, Lurlyne Wilkerson; and two assistant county agents, Webster Pendergrass, who is responsible for the development of the unit-demonstration farms, and J. C. Stewart, who is primarily concerned with the relocation and readjustment of the river-bottom farmers who are forced to move or readjust their farming, due to the flooding of the large area of bottom land.

The problems nearest home, and those that show most immediate results, are those that are peculiar to the farmers in the community who are attempting to support their families by a similar type of agriculture under similar conditions; thus the farm and home demonstrations such as have been developed in Henry County. More than 3,000 such demonstrations are being conducted in Tennessee. Four hundred and seventeen communities are organized, and 151 of them have developed definite community plans.

Farmers are selected by the local people in the community to act as demonstrators. The farms of demonstrators are generally typical of the area as to size, soil, system of farming, and opportunity. These farms are not show places; many of them would be unnoticed by the casual traveler but not by the people of the community. The neighbors and friends in the community are watching every development with interest.

Thirty-three community clubs in Henry County, with an enrollment of 1,200 farm families, provided a working organization through which to channel farm and home demonstration work. By 1940 the men and women in 7 of the clubs mapped out a definite program for the year with a definite demonstration along specific lines and set goals of both a long-time nature and those to be reached during the year. The Springville community offers an example of a community program aimed toward the same objective as the county program but tied down more specifically to problems in that particular community.

Definite goals for accomplishment during the year are set for every phase of a well-rounded farm-and-home program. The community comprises approximately 13,000 acres, 3,800 of which are below the 360-foot contour and will be flooded by the construction of the Kentucky Dam.

The Springville Community Club was organized in October 1934. Twenty-five farm families were represented at the first meeting when a mattress demonstration was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Chastain. During the 7 years the membership has grown to 77 farm families, and the following community clubs adjoining Springfield have been organized as a result of leaders attending the meetings at Springville: Elkhorn, with an enrollment of 26 farm families; Pleasant Grove, 54; McDavids Grove, 27; and Oakland, 90. The Evergreen Club for Negroes was organized in 1937 and had its own mattress center last year.

H. R. Wimberly was the first unit-demonstrator in the Springville community. His farm was approved in 1936, and he has been in the program continuously since that time. He was one of the first farmers in the community to use lime, and his demonstrations of the effect of lime and phosphate were observed by a large number of the farmers. Since he has been in the program he has begun the establishment of a beef herd with a purebred bull and has recently obtained a flock of sheep. He has been the chairman of the community organization since its beginning.

The Springville Club has worked on several civic projects during this time. The club has made and spent $1,045 on church and cemetery improvement, and received honorable mention in a contest sponsored by the Country Gentleman magazine for community improvements. It has sponsored 4 community fairs and entered an exhibit in the county show 2 years ago and won first place. It purchased a $300 curtain for the new school. The club has made money by giving plays, having recreation meetings, tacky parties, box suppers, and various other forms of entertainment. During the past year the club has done considerable Red Cross work; folded 6,000 bandages; and made shirts, dresses, and so forth.

The club also has a community library and is adding to the books each year. Two book reviews are given at the meetings each year. The club is a member of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

The club owns two community pressure cookers and a community sealer. Thirty-eight members own individual pressure cookers. No one knew how to use a steam-pressure cooker 7 years ago. At a recent meeting of the club, the members said that every family in the community canned by this method. The Negroes also own a community cooker, and 3 Negro families own individual cookers. Each of the following vegetables have been added to an average of 18 gardens in the community for the first time: Chinese cabbage, New Zealand spinach, tendergreens, carrots, eggplant, salsify, aspar-

A demonstration meeting brings out a crowd at one of the farm homes in Springville community.

agus, Swiss chard, head lettuce, cauliflower, celery, parsnips, and rhubarb.

The women's club meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month. The men do not have regular meeting dates but so far have averaged meeting as a group five or six times a year. A large number of the group, however, attend evening schools conducted during the winter months by the vocational agriculture teacher, and they hold one social event each year. J. R. Barrett is the vocational agriculture teacher in the community, and his knowledge of the community and the farmers and his willingness to help have made him responsible for much of the success in the community.

In the spring of 1939, through cooperative efforts on the part of the farmers, the first carload shipments of lime were received at Springville. Since that time the farmers have pooled their orders for lime and had it shipped to Springville their closest freight station. One trucker is hired to deliver the phosphate to the farms.

The accomplishments of the Springville community during 1940 are interesting. One terracing school was held, two teams were trained, and 193 acres were terraced. A total of 405 tons of limestone and 44.6 tons of phosphate were applied. In line with the goals set up, some were not reached, but others were exceeded. Thirty-seven acres of crimson clover, 2 of alfalfa, 300 of lespedeza, 59 of red clover, 150 of clover and grass mixtures, 75 of other winter cover crops, and 96 of small grain were seeded; and 200 acres of pasture were improved. Three new farmers began a crop rotation system; and 12 new farmers, making a total of 46, were carrying on demonstrations in the watershed.

Two new beef herds, 4 dairy herds, and 3 new flocks of sheep were added; and approved management was practiced. One hog-feeding demonstration and 2 poultry-culling demonstrations were added. The lambs and wool were sold cooperatively. Five year-round garden demonstrations and 3 meat-cutting and meat-curing demonstrations were conducted. One forestry demonstration was carried on, and 3,500 trees were set.

In 4–H Club work, 6 club meetings and 1 achievement day were held. Sixteen houses were underpinned, 21 sanitary toilets added, 29 items of furniture refinished, 68 chairs rebottomed, and 11 brooder houses built; and 23 mattresses were made before the AAA mattress project began. Thirty-one families made cheese on the farm for the first time.

From this community seven boys and girls have completed courses in agriculture and home economics at the University of Tennessee as a direct influence of the extension program.

The problem in these activities is the correlation of a host of practices in a practical way on a practical farm. This problem merits and gets the special attention given the demonstration farmer who is the elected leader in his community.

Land Use Planning a Basis for County Programs

T. G. STEWART, Extension Land Planning Specialist, Colorado

We have some nicely colored maps as a result of our agricultural planning in the county. What shall we do with them? According to R. O. Woodfin, county extension agent in Kit Carson County, Colo., the maps and recommendations made by his community and county planning committees indicate a definite extension program. "It is not a question of deciding what to do with the maps; the problem is how to find time from so-called emergency activities to carry out the recommended program.

"More than 200 farm people had a part in making the soils, present-use, problem, and future land use maps. They combine perhaps 4,000 years of farming experience in the county with all of the technical information we could get our fingers on. The recommended future land use map and the suggested farm and ranch plans for the different land use areas present the picture of our agricultural pattern in the future. All of us should work on a program to make this picture a reality," remarked Agent Woodfin.

The fundamental objectives of agricultural planning in Kit Carson County are: To conserve the land; to develop adequate, more stable income for farm families; and to coordinate agricultural programs.

A unit reorganization program based upon the recommended farm and ranch plans suggested by the planning committees for the different land use areas is getting results. Planning committees have determined that in the general farming areas (yellow on the map), 480 acres of grass and 800 acres of cropland are needed to support an average family desiring a good standard of living. In the livestock (blue) area, a ranch including 320 acres of cropland and 2,240 acres of grass will produce about the same income as the general farm plan.

Two Hundred Thirty Families Enrolled

A total of 230 farm families enrolled in the unit reorganization program in 1940. Of those enrolled in the program last year, 104 operators increased the size of their units an average of 288 acres by lease or purchase. The leasing of land from an absent owner is an uncertain addition to the unit as much of this land is held for speculation. Obtaining loans to finance the purchase of land for family-size farms is a major problem to which lending agencies are giving consideration at the present time.

There is not enough land in the county to provide each of the 1,186 families with the recommended acreage. All families are not equal in size, nor do they desire the recommended set-up, so the unit reorganization program provides for increasing the size of business by additional enterprises, reorganization of enterprises on some farms by changing to those better adapted to the farm and expanding those already started, the adoption of improved management plans for crop and livestock production, and part-time employment to supplement limited incomes on small farms.

Other Organizations Enlist

Two soil-conservation districts were organized soon after the planning committees began the study of problems. A total of 71 farms and ranches including 110,208 acres are under conservation agreements in these districts. The Farm Security Administration program is definitely based upon planning committee recommendations. Five grass reseeding demonstrations will point the way back to grass on blow lands where the livestock type of farming is recommended. A 4–H registered heifer club and four purebred-bull clubs are aimed at improving the livestock. Sorghum variety tests and trench-silo demonstrations are helping the feed situation in the "blue" area on the map.

A summer-fallow contest conducted in the general farming area will make wheat production more certain. Planning committees recommended that 25 percent of the corn acreage be planted to sorghums. Actually in 1940, growers shifted 33 percent of their corn acreage to grain and forage sorghums. A hybrid corn variety test was planted in the corn-growing section of the county in an attempt to find higher-yielding varieties.

Improved poultry housing, preparation of poultry for market, and swine sanitation are being demonstrated to encourage diversification and efficient production. Dairy enterprise records are kept by four farmers whose major interest is dairying. Some corn and sorghum enterprise records will give facts as a basis for comparing these two crops. All of the contestants in the summer-fallow contest are required to keep wheat-enterprise records. In order to study different farming and ranching plans, 15 farmers located in the "yellow" area and 16 ranches in the "blue" area are keeping complete farm accounts.

Committees are working upon a road and highway plan which will eliminate about 1,200 miles of unnecessary county roads. Other committees are studying the possibility of reclassifying the land in the county for taxation on the basis of its ability to produce or on the basis of its use.

Nutrition Problems of Low-Income Rural Families

INEZ M. HOBART, Extension Nutritionist, Minnesota

If signs of poor nutrition were as clear-cut and as painful as a case of poison ivy, malnutrition might not be as serious a problem as it is today. A lack of thiamin, nicotinic acid, or iron is seldom recognized by the individual or family until it has become a serious deficiency and even then may not be recognized as a diet problem. Yet, so common have these hidden deficiencies become that the National Research Council has advised the addition of these elements to our daily bread.

Nutrition problems are not confined to any group; we find them in homes where there is sufficient income to meet all the family needs. Here it may be due to ignorance of food needs, or of food values, or a lack of appreciation of the relation of nutrition to health. Fads, superstitions, prejudices, or racial food habits that have not been adjusted to new world food supplies account for many problems. Even these are not apt to be as serious where there is a generous array of foods from which to choose.

But where the choice of food is restricted by low income, a mistake in selection of foods may be serious; for example, the puffed cereals cost so much more than plain oatmeal that milk, eggs, fruit, or vegetables may be omitted. The farm family can extend their income by producing most of these protective foods. But do they do it? This, then, is our nutrition problem in Extension. Home demonstration agents and leaders often report: "Many of the people who come to our meetings, who call at our office, who read our articles, who bring their problems to us, are the ones who already are doing a pretty good job of homemaking."

Should Reach 90 Percent of the Homes

Extension workers are reaching more people each year, sometimes two or three times as many as are enrolled in nutrition, but to reach 90 percent of the homes is the challenge of extension work.

As we study the situation we find our greatest problem and, right now, our greatest responsibility in the low-income rural family. These are often the families who do not "come out." They may have cars, but the cars don't always run; and gas costs money. They are timid, retiring, and self-conscious because their shoes, their coats, or their dresses are shabby. They do not feel that they can invite the group to their homes. Often the parents in these homes have completed only third or fourth grade. They do not read newspapers or magazines. Many of these families do not take part in the social, civic, and church activities in their communities, and so do not come in contact with the people who might interest them in the opportunities at their door. These mothers seldom visit school. Even though they are often ill or below par, they seldom consult a doctor but try to weather through. Fortunate are they if there is a county nurse to look in on them.

How can we reach these families? Fortunately, extension work is a long-time program. Workers who accept the extension challenge must remember that "Rome was not built in a day."

First we must know the problem, must study it unceasingly, must be on our toes to recognize and to grasp every opportunity. We shall need to know the other agencies working in our community, their aims, activities, and services. The farm security worker, the public health nurse, the social worker, or the doctor who visits homes of this group can usually help to find the stumbling blocks and can often, if familiar with the extension program, encourage the families to take advantage of the activities which would meet their immediate problem.

With our own program so full, how can we find time to meet these workers? Some counties have achieved much through a county nutrition committee of the various educational, service, and professional agencies in the county. Such a group can study these problems, work out ways and means of attack, and obtain assistance in following through.

The extension worker has much to offer this committee with her understanding of the possibilities of home production. She may be able to assist the social worker in determining what food is needed and discovering how to supply the most essential materials.

But what to do about the family that is satisfied to subsist upon the assistance of others? These folks have little initiative, little imagination, little ambition. Such a family is the community problem—and ours, too. Criticizing or ignoring the problem will not pay the taxes or lift the burden this family will place on the community. Is this a problem of one or more generations?

Is this a health problem? We do not have much initiative when we are not feeling well. Has our community given the able-bodied people capable of earning a living an opportunity to know the joy of doing for themselves and others? The agency which is assisting this family is eager to see it self-supporting and will go along in a plan to rehabilitate the family in health and morale.

Many of us are finding that we are pointing our publicity, our printed leaflets, even the organization of work toward the groups we have been reaching rather than toward the group we consider our foremost problem. We must not give up this strong group of able leaders but, rather call upon them to study their community, to understand its problems, and to seek the causes. Perhaps they could be better neighbors; they can make sure that these new friends have invitations to the meetings at the neighboring homes, schools, and churches. They can help them with transportation, plan with the young mothers for the care of the little ones, see that they understand about school lunches, invite them in to see the vegetable garden, or show them how to can their first lot of tomatoes or beans.

An organized project in nutrition every few years will help but will not solve the problem. It's a year-round job and a long-time job, and that means pointing a well-planned program toward the family health. The county agricultural agent will discuss it in his farm-management work; the 4–H agent will plan for it in organizing the work of the youngsters; the land use planning committee will study it when determining plans for their families.

Nutrition Is a Year-Round Job

Food preparation has been a popular way of stimulating interest in a year-round home-produced food supply. The groups are kept down to 10 or 12 members so that meetings can be held in the homes and so that everyone can take an active part. The group is divided into pairs, both members being responsible for part of the preparation. Wash dresses are worn; wearing a garment of this type is within everyone's budget. Certain types of food preparations are stressed each time, but an entire meal is prepared and served by the group at noon. Different services are used, the type being determined by the facillities available in the hostess' home. The homemakers comment on how easy it seems to prepare attractive meals; and they often exclaim, "Our table looks as pretty as those in the magazines." The members themselves bring the home-produced foods about which the meal is planned; the hostess provides the staples, such as sugar, flour, spices, and lard. The cost is prorated. Thus each member shares equally and learns to evaluate her home-produced foods.

Having an opportunity to learn to cook, to eat new foods or old foods in a new way, to see the acceptance of these foods by the group, has encouraged many of the homemakers to raise these foods at home and to serve them to their families. Grocers report new demands; church suppers include the foods served; and sometimes even the restaurant operators add the new dishes to their menus.

Interagency Councils Function

■ "Better functioning of agency representatives at land use planning committee meetings is the most obvious desirable result of the activities of our county interagency council," is the way in which a New Mexico county agent recently responded when asked to evaluate the work of the Extension-sponsored county council of representatives of government agencies.

"Our council activities," added another agent, "have resulted in a better understanding on the part of farmers and ranchers of Department of Agriculture work in this county."

Other examples of constructive county council work listed by New Mexico agents include the promotion of better fellowship among the agency representatives, elimination of duplication, accomplishment of more actual work in accordance with program-planning committee recommendations, and better understanding on the part of all of the work of each other.

Organized county interagency councils of Government workers are now in their second year in New Mexico, and although the exact organization and name used vary from county to county, the cardinal objectives of all such organizations are better understanding and coordination. Instructions issued by the State office for the organization of county programs for 1940 recommended the establishment of such groups.

Council Has Six Objectives

In February of this year the regional SCS and State Extension offices issued a joint memorandum outlining organization of the councils and listing as their objectives the following six points: (1) To acquaint each agency with what the others are doing; (2) to promote coordination; (3) to give the general public, especially farmers, a correct understanding of how the agencies fit the department program; (4) to facilitate application of uniform procedures; (5) to stimulate a more uniform knowledge of land problems and adjustments; and (6) to provide a channel for improved agricultural education.

In March the State office of the Farm Security Administration endorsed the movement to organize county interagency councils and advised its county and district representatives to cooperate with extension agents in the formation of such groups.

In Union County, which is on the edge of the Dust Bowl, the first county interagency meeting took place in September 1939, as a result of a conference between County Agent L. S. Kurtz and J. G. Wayne, local SCS project manager. Kurtz and Wayne were disturbed over the seeming lack of understanding on the part of agricultural workers of how their particular agency activities fitted into the general program. The meeting which was called following this conference resulted in the formation of the council.

Getting acquainted with each other and each other's work was the first thing the Union council members attempted. Through explanation of the work of different agencies, it was frequently found that information which one agency had was desired by another and that exchanges of information of this sort resulted in the elimination of overlapping efforts.

Another aim of the Union County Council has been to bring about a more stable agriculture for the area, with emphasis being given of late to the need of making the farm population more nearly self-sufficient. The council favors more family-sized and fewer oversized farming units in the county. When council members learn of large acreages of land which are for sale, notice will be given agencies authorized to buy land for the reestablishment in agriculture of dispossessed farmers.

In Valencia County, the council is considering means of arousing greater farmer and rancher interest in land use planning activities, and in De Baca County the group each year sponsors a series of general farm meetings at which motion pictures are shown and agricultural practices discussed. Cooperators and clients with the different programs of all agencies operating in De Baca County are told of the meetings and are urged to attend. As a result, the percentage of farmers reached has been greatly increased. In Socorro County the council has found that in a number of communities the water supply is polluted. Council members are studying means to remedy the situation.

One of the most recent and profitable uses of the interagency council was demonstrated in the wheat section of New Mexico in the counties of Quay and Curry in combating the serious cutworm infestation that has destroyed a large amount of the wheat crop in those counties in the last 2 years. Wheat farmers under such circumstances, of course, are looking for a method of combating the pests. County agents C. A. Grimes of Quay County and C. J. Todd of Curry County, in cooperation with H. H. Walkden of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, went over the situation the latter part of February this year and suggested the only immediate control measure that seemed possible. Their suggestions were that wheat farmers in these areas establish a 3-year rotation to consist of 33 percent fallow, 33 percent wheat, and 33 percent devoted to row crops, mainly grain sorghums in this area. Of course, to set out on a program of this kind involved adjustments with respect to AAA regulations. This was taken up with the AAA officials at a meeting in Quay and Curry Counties on April 10 and 11, at which time it was agreed that this plan would be presented to the director of the western division of the AAA. The necessary provisions were agreed to by the AAA officials whereby farmers would not lose history and parity payments with respect to wheat and at the same time would be allowed to carry out crop plans that would enable them to combat the infestation of pests by adopting such a rotation system. This plan was referred to other agencies in the Southern Great Plains at Amarillo later and was adopted by all agencies working in the area.

Backed by Land Use Council

In order to back up the plan, the State Land Use Council for New Mexico, at its meeting, May 1 and 2, endorsed the idea and recommended it to all agencies working in the wheat section of New Mexico.

Democratic procedure is assured in all organizations by giving no agency representatives, no matter how numerous, more than one vote. Dinner meetings have proved most popular, with summer picnics scheduled from time to time. In Bernalillo County, if at least one representative is not present from each member agency, the absent ones are fined the price of one dinner; and the money so collected is used for cigars and candy at the next meeting.

Membership varies from county to county, but in all instances, AAA, FSA, SCS, Smith-Hughes teachers, and Extension are represented. In counties in which NYA, Public Welfare Department, Health Department, Wildlife Service, Grazing Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Weather Bureau, Bureaus of Animal and Plant Industry, WPA, Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Division, Federal Land Bank, and Experiment Station have resident representatives; they, too, are on the council.

The favor with which agriculture generally looks upon these organizations is shown by a resolution adopted by the State Land Use Advisory Council at its last meeting on May 1 and 2. Taking a tip from the counties, the State body adopted a resolution urging the establishment of a State interagency council made up of agency representatives on the land use organization. As outlined by the advisory council, the new interagency group will have two major functions: (1) Gathering, assembling, and presenting factual material for use by the advisory council in considering a State program, and (2) devising means for carrying into effect the recommendations of the council.

Defense Plans Find Some Less Ready

WHO ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY BE HELPED?

ROBERTA HERSHEY, Extension Specialist in Nutrition, Michigan

"Less-ready" families form a cross section of almost any rural community. They are the families who, through lack of interest or inertia or because of varying backgrounds, have failed to join any of the local social band wagons or to share in educational neighborhood activities. Seldom do they represent any one economic level, foreign settlement, or intellectual group. They are likely to be scattered through every township but in no segregated corner of it.

If we, as extension workers, really intend to survey the Simpson family situation, for example, we must first determine what outside influences actually reach any member of the family, which ones arouse a flicker of response, and why. Do any members of the family belong to a church? Have they joined the Grange or the parent-teacher association? Does Mrs. Simpson belong to a club of any kind or Mr. Simpson to a lodge? Are the children active in school groups? The answer to all such questions for many families living under a democracy is still negative. A recent survey of one typical (and fairly well-to-do) Michigan county showed that 34 percent of the people belonged to 100 percent of the possible organizations. By this definition, then, the other 66 percent might be classified as "less-ready."

Do the Simpsons have a radio? Which programs do they tune in on? One enterprising home agent not long ago dropped in on several of the less-ready homemakers in her county at strategic hours. She found two homemakers listening avidly to the Romance of Helen Trent during the farm and home broadcast, and one who was taking a brief vacation from ironing lost in the throes and woes of Bachelor's Children at exactly the same moment the homemaker's hour from the State college station was in progress. What of a need for color, humor, or freedom from a work-a-day world were those programs satisfying when other more practical (an even serious) lacks were not even realized?

What do the Simpsons read? Are any magazines, newspapers, or farm periodicals left regularly in the mail box? What of the mail box itself? Does it stand upright on a well-painted post with the family name proudly and plainly printed on it? One rural mail carrier says that he can judge the community value of a family by its mail box and that, in years and years of carrying mail, this indicator has seldom played him false.

Are they friendly with any of their neighbors, or are they independent and aloof? Most of these little sketches of the entire story of The Five Simpsons and How They Grew may be pieced together by an alert and sympathetic person in one home visit, or occasionally during a casual encounter at the Four Corners store.

After all, do the Simpsons realize that their farm is run down, that their crops are poor, and that their children are ill-kept and poorly fed? In short, what does this particular family really want out of life; and can they, in one generation, be brought to strive for the things that most of us consider desirable?

Can we be sure we have the answer? Are we oftentimes recommending some method of soil conservation or modern meal planning to the Simpsons on the basis that benefits from such practices have been proved by careful experiment and have been worked out so well by the Kellys over on the next farm? The fact still remains that the Simpsons are not the Kellys, and a variety of human values must be considered in adapting one family's formula to another family.

Wealth of Experience Available

Are we ever guilty of making out plans or forms, calendars for order of work, or questions for discussion without giving sufficient consideration to the common-sense ideas, decided opinions, and wealth of experience of most rural people? Even those who have apparently made a poor job of it have lived through the years in a way largely responsible for their point of view. It is even possible that, given exactly the same conditions and a more scientific approach, they might even arrive in the same situation again. Even science has not solved all problems yet.

Many extension workers are hampered in understanding the lack of cooperation among members of a family like the Simpsons simply because they happen to be lucky enough to have grown up in a family where cooperation was taken for granted. Few farm or home enterprises can ever be successful without a wholehearted pulling together of every family member. That hurdle is one that the Simpsons will have to make before they are ready for community cooperation.

Perhaps extension programs, necessarily set up for large numbers of people, have led us to expect the same response from people just because they live in the same neighborhood. No better illustration could be given of differences in reaction than the comparison of the unusual interest shown by some of the women in an isolated southern community to a preview of a food chopper in operation and the terse remark of an older woman in the same group: "Well, let me tell you right now, my children is going to chaw their own."

On the other hand, our zeal for the practical may urge us to emphasize the very evident changes that are needed first, when the "less-ready" mind is for the moment more interested in frills. After a spirited discussion on money-saving meals among a group of northern Michigan women not long ago, the shabbiest homemaker in the room sighed heavily at the end of the afternoon and said: "Do you always have to be so cheap?" However, at the following meeting dealing with "Your Meals and Your Manners," she asked the greatest number of questions on table manners and table arrangement, although, according to the agent, her stock of dishes and silver boasted no two of a kind. Who is to say which meeting was more valuable to her?

Our Simpson family, without doubt, attends motion pictures. They are accustomed to films with a romantic story, rapid action, and dramatic outcome. Should more films using Hollywood artistry be added to the "illustrative material" of the extension worker? It certainly has been proved again and again that the strictly educational film will not catch the attention of the "not-so-eager" person—much less hold it. A motion-picture short thrown on many screens recently pictured, as an advertisement for used cars, such a happy family picnic that one man was overheard to remark: "They've almost convinced me. I'd better trade my new car in for a used one just to be able to picnic like that." The advertising agencies have found the way to catch attention. Even Charlie McCarthy himself cannot get a point across by just being on the air —somebody must want to tune in.

The radio programs that continue day after day with suspended interest and 50 seconds of convincing talk about baking powder are credited with merchandising literally extra tons. Should the educator's program take on more of the dramatic? Someone has said that the greatest teacher has always been somewhat of a showman, an inspired Barnum of the blackboard.

The modern magazines that boast the largest circulations are best known for their brevity, the cleverness of their cartoons, or their subtle or bizarre innuendo. Most certainly, many extension publications could do with a face lifting, and a few to-the-point cartoons.

One magazine features homely little letters by an extension entomologist who signs the letters "Bill Bugs." Everything in these letters is in a good bulletin or in a spraying

calendar; yet "Bill Bugs" reaches thousands of subscribers who read his letters for entertainment and learn current practices.

Unquestionably, there is a large following of the so-called "eager" people in every agent's wake. Agricultural and home agents alike could easily keep busy every minute of the day and night working only with those ready to learn. Are they justified, then, in spending less of their time with these people and more with those who are more difficult to reach? Will the rich community leaven developed through the years by helping these eager people to stand on their own feet and accept community responsibility weaken? Is the expenditure of time required by home visits to a few in a well-populated county fair to those taxpayers whose homes cannot be called upon this year or even next? All these questions must be carefully considered if the Extension Service is to reach more of the "less-ready" families and maintain its place out front in modern social and educational methods.

4-H Makes Good Use of Poor Land

"Forestry Demonstration Plot—Anoka County 4–H Clubs—Planted Spring 1940," reads a large green-and-white 4-leaf-clover sign located on the highway 4 miles east of Anoka, Minn. The demonstration plot covers 70 acres of land which County Agent C. E. Cairns and his successor, Glen J. Johnson, obtained from the board of commissioners for the use of 4–H forestry clubs of Anoka County.

It took much planning and maneuvering on the part of Agent Cairns to launch the project. First, he sounded out the interest of the members of the 4–H leaders' council who readily endorsed the idea. To sell the idea to the county commissioners, he presented them with an outlined plan which had been approved by the 4–H council. The land requested, 10 acres to begin with, was of no value for agricultural purposes and was tax delinquent so that the title would remain with the State but under the commissioners' jurisdiction. The board designated two areas of land as conservation land which was turned over to the 4–H Club members for their forestry demonstration purposes.

The next step was the planting itself which had to be done by 4–H groups. When early spring came, the forestry club members cut about 700 cottonwood cuttings for the purpose of planting one-half acre to this tree as a start on the project. As it was too early and the ground was still frozen, the cuttings were placed in cold storage until planting time. Arrangements were made to obtain seedlings from the Minnesota Forestry Service. Then, on a Saturday in early spring, a group of 4–H boys and girls and some of the parents and 4–H leaders planted one-half acre of cottonwood plantings. This was a full day's work, for each of the 600 cuttings placed in the ground received the same detailed treatment—first, a section of sod 2 feet each way had to be removed; a ditch for planting was dug; and, after this, the cutting was well covered and tramped to insure good contact with the soil.

Two Saturdays later, another group of club members met to plant some evergreen and hardwood trees. The planting labors were lightened somewhat by previous tractor plowing of furrows 8 feet apart in which the small trees were planted. At the end of this day's work, 3,000 young trees were in the ground. On the following Saturday, another 4–H group completed the planting of the 4–H lot, to make a total of 6,000 trees the first year.

The plantings were so arranged that they can be seen from the highway, and the forestry plot is one of the best ways to show how to convert idle, unproductive land into timber crops, says Agent Cairns. One-half acre each of the following trees was planted from north to south in the following order: white pine, cottonwood, jack pine, black locust, Norway pine, American elm, white spruce, green ash, mixed conifers, tamarack, and hybrid poplar cuttings. In addition, a demonstration standard windbreak of one-half acre has been set out with golden willow, cottonwood, American elm, white pine, and white spruce.

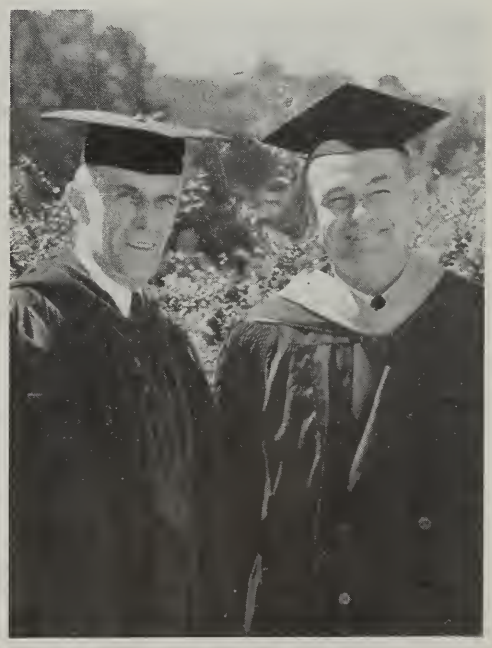
Inspection the first fall revealed that the spring plantings, with the exception of the cuttings, were a very definite success, reports County Agent Cairns. The evergreens, including both the pines and spruce as well as the tamarack, had an average mortality of not more than 5 percent, with some of the varieties losing not more than 3 percent. From 85 to 95 percent of the hardwood trees lived; but, due to a hot, dry spell, only about 10 percent of the cuttings survived. Mr. Cairns believes that the cuttings should have been made from larger stock so as to store up more moisture and food to resist drought conditions.

The conservation work begun by Mr. Cairns did not stop with the first enthusiastic year. When Mr. Cairns left the county to become State club agent, his successor, Glen J. Johnson, found the community eager to expand the project. The 4–H leaders' council of Anoka was asked to build the forestry demonstration area into a county-wide recreation area. Sixty additional acres near Martin Lake were provided for the purpose. On this tract of land there are three Indian mounds, a beaver dam, a beautiful creek, and an ideal location for picnics and small gatherings. Last summer, during a 3-day camp at Martin Lake, a hardwood nursery was started on this land for the purpose of raising trees to be used in later years for reforesting a portion of this area. An inspection of the plantings the following fall showed more than 3,000 healthy American elm seedlings growing in the nursery.

The community became so enthusiastic over the recreation project that the 4–H council was asked to sponsor a NYA project to bring about further developments. These have taken the form of picnic tables, fireplaces, bridges over the creek, ball diamonds, horseshoe and tennis courts.

Tree planting has become a favorite project in Minnesota. For example, if the trees planted by the West Polk County 4–H Club members were placed one-half mile apart, they would form a continuous row from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, as 5,251 trees were planted by 4–H Club members in their forestry projects.

1940 was Minnesota's greatest tree-planting year. 4–H Club members helped Minnesota farmers to plant some 300,000 trees which were placed on farm lands, in addition to the 3 million trees which were put out under the AAA tree-planting program.



Secretary Receives Degree

Secretary Claude R. Wickard received the honorary degree of Doctor of Agriculture from Purdue University at the annual commencement on June 8. With the Secretary at the left of the picture is President Elliott of Purdue University.

Home Garden Promotion

A spring better-gardens campaign promoted in Hand and Faulk Counties, S. Dak., a better family living program, according to Nellie McLaughlin, county home extension agent.

To begin this campaign, a feature story was written for local papers and the importance of gardens emphasized through items written several weeks in succession by the agents. These stories included the importance of early planting; gave recognition to prominent local gardeners; gave information on the selection of a plot with irrigation available; and recommended the use of adopted varieties.

By means of a circular letter, all 4–H Club families in the county were asked to cooperate by growing a larger home garden. A letter was sent to each family with a check sheet enclosed which they could return for additional literature. The outstanding garden exhibit and the girls with the largest home-canning record are being recognized at the 4–H achievement day.

In connection with the last home extension training school series, the agent promoted gardens from a national defense angle. The Consumer's Guide, devoted to that topic, good economy, and statistics gleaned from the standard-of-living survey were used, as well as the information acquired at district conferences as to England's immediate needs. Further promotion was given at the county council meeting in May.—*Nora M. Hott, State home demonstration leader, South Dakota.*

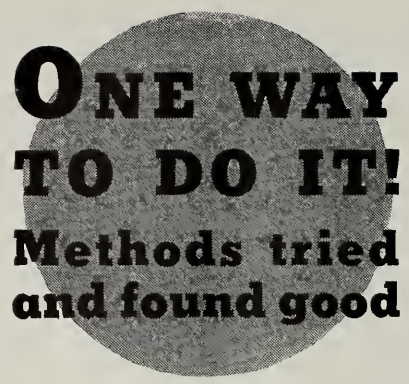
Training the Local Leader

Getting voluntary local leaders to give demonstrations and conduct club meetings, without the home demonstration agent being present, is a problem which many agents believe to be impossible of solution. However, I have found that it can be done, and it gives the agent time to make new contacts and organize new clubs.

Household textiles and mattresses have been prominent in our work for the past year, so I decided to use the making of mattress and spring covers and pads as a springboard. On several occasions, county council members had discussed methods through which they might be more helpful in the work, so I determined to use them.

For the first demonstration, I sent out a call for 2 leaders from each of the 10 adult home demonstration clubs in my part of the county. In response, 4 clubs sent 2 leaders each, and 1 club sent 4. To each club represented I supplied enough unbleached muslin for making a mattress cover as the demonstration at the next month's meeting. Each club made a cover and pad and sold them (auction or raffle), thus obtaining a small amount of money for its treasury, after the cost of materials was deducted.

Other clubs were notified that they could



get materials if they came to the office. Some leaders came in, and others did not. Later, when I met all clubs, those which had not had the demonstrations were terribly upset. They were told that it would be up to the club to see that the leaders came to the office for demonstrations, as that was the plan being followed, and it would not be fair to make exceptions.

Next month, when a leaders' meeting was called to prepare them for conducting the meetings the following month, every club was represented, most of them having more than two leaders present. The leaders have been proficiently conducting demonstrations and meetings without my presence.

In the meantime, I have been making home visits and contacts with new people, mostly in communities where there had been no organized home demonstration work. I located a key person in each community and asked if she would let me give a canning demonstration in her home, as canning was appropriate for the time of year. During 3 weeks, I made about 75 home visits and gave demonstrations to 127 women and 2 men who had never participated in home demonstration work.

The mattress program has helped to make the women conscious of the fact that they must give assistance as leaders. Forty women and 15 men have assisted as leaders in this mattress work, and I feel that we shall soon have some very good leadership developed in the county and that the leaders will help to spread the work.—*Allie Lee Rush, home demonstration agent, western Hillsborough County, Fla.*

Friendly Visiting Day

The Franklin County, Ind., Home Economics Association is conducting "Friendly Visiting Days" this year. The members are supporting the idea, recommended by the Indiana Home Economics Association, of encouraging more and better gardens and helping nonmembers with canning and storage problems. Briefly, the plan is:

Home economics club members visit the homes of nonmembers, taking with them Purdue Extension Leaflet No. 222, The Family Garden. The county extension office, in cooperation with the county land use planning committee, prepared a mimeographed pamphlet on gardening and storage of vegetables and fruits which gives the essential information especially suitable for the county.

All of this material is being distributed by the women when they go visiting.

The series of 13 meetings on home gardens, one in each township, were held in March and April, reaching 1,008 persons representing 379 families. These meetings were primarily held for the discussion of gardening problems, but moving pictures were also shown as an entertainment feature which served as an added inducement to get people to come. Seven of these were held in connection with farm bureau meetings.—*Mary Glenn, home demonstration agent, Franklin County, Ind.*

4–H Milk-Testing Club

In Matanuska Valley, Alaska, a 4–H milk-testing club was organized, consisting of 10 older boys who had completed various 4–H projects. This club, under the leadership of the local creamery man, has kept a record of herds in individual record books, kept a wall chart at the creamery, and once a month has taken a sample of each cow's milk, which is tested at the club meeting. To join the club, the boys are requested to keep records on a herd, either their own or a neighbor's, to attend meetings, and to test each cow's milk once a month during her lactation period. District Agent Howard Estelle, who sponsored the project, had tried for 2 years to persuade one dairyman to keep milk records. Not until this dairyman's son joined the milk-testing club was it accomplished, and then it took only a few months.

A Dairy Exhibit

Effective dairy exhibits, other than those of dairy cattle, are unusual. Key exhibits which prompt ideas for smaller dairy exhibits and which may readily be duplicated by farm and ranch people at large and small fairs and community short courses are even more unusual. But the exhibit arranged in 1940 at the Texas State Fair at Dallas by a committee of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College Extension Service specialists, comprising Jennie Camp, G. G. Gibson, and W. V. Maddox, was such an exhibit. Parts of this exhibit have been used many times throughout the State during the spring and summer of 1941.

The general theme of the exhibit, which occupied 100 feet of space, was "Produce Fine Dairy Products—They Make Fine Food."

There was a home dairy barn into which the dairy specialists had worked their best ideas on ventilation, cleaning, ease of handling and milking dairy cows, convenience of storing and handling feed, and economy of construction. A partition divided the barn. On one side was milking space for two

cows and on the other space for feed storage. The whole thing was ready for use even to having the proper grain mixture in the feed bins. Two life-size cut-outs of cows stood before the feed trough, and a third stood by a water trough shaded by an arbor built of oak poles and covered with palmetto leaves. The doors were arranged so that visitors could go inside and look around.

On an adjacent pyramidal exhibit structure was shown the nine steps in the process of producing clean milk.

The next part of the exhibit, in a refrigerated display case, was devoted to manufactured farm dairy products. In one bowl was displayed butter granules to show the proper stage to which butter should be churned. Another contained butter with the buttermilk washed out and salt worked in until it was dissolved. There were prints of butter properly wrapped, and a placard enumerated the steps in making good farm butter. There were farm-made cottage, cooked, and Neufchatel cheeses, and buttermilk. These products were in quantities large enough to attract attention.

The last part of the exhibit, dealing with the utilization of dairy products, was arranged in another large refrigerated display case. Under the caption, "Butter Makes These Better," were assembled whole-wheat rolls, broiled sirloin steak, buttered carrots, baked potatoes, and fruit pie, all well cooked and attractively displayed. In the next space, the placard read "Choose Cheese Often." A large bowl of cottage cheese with a pitcher of cream and a plate of graham crackers formed the centerpiece. There was a lime jello ring filled with Neufchatel cheese along with baked tomatoes, each topped with a slice of cooked cheese. After this came "Make Use of Milk." A pitcher of buttermilk, a bowl of clabber, a pitcher of sweet milk, a tray of fancy drinks, a Spanish-cream ring filled with sliced yellow peaches, and a tray of boiled custard, all in attractive containers, made up this exhibit.

A practical display, which was changed daily, dealt with the subject, "Use Dairy Products in the School Lunch." It exhibited well-packed school lunches prepared by 4-H Club girls from six nearby counties, who twice daily presented team demonstrations.

Soils Map Plus Aerial Photograph

A Kern County, Calif., farmer studies his farm by use of the soil map and the aerial photograph, both available in the county agent's office. The AAA aerial photographs of the floor of the valley of Kern County made in 1937 were purchased by the county and have proved to be very useful.

Each time a farm or office call is received with reference to some crop-production problem, the aerial photographs are immediately brought into use. In practically every case the aerial photographs will locate the exact boundary of some production problem, particularly if the problem is related to the soil.

The University of California and the Federal Bureau of Chemistry and Engineering, in completing the National Land Division Soil Classification Survey, have made it possible to use the aerial photographs in conjunction with the soil survey. As a result of aerial photographs and soil-classification maps, it is possible to provide each farmer who requests information on a soil-production problem with a map of his own and adjacent land to show the relationship of the soils on his place to adjacent lands.

As the aerial photographs are on a scale of approximately 8 inches to the mile, the soil-survey map is gradually being completed on the same scale. This makes it simple for the average farmer to study both the aerial photograph and the soil-survey map at the same time. The original soil-survey map is on a scale of 1 inch to the mile.—*M. A. Lindsay, county agent, Kern County, Calif.*

Push the Button

At least 2,000 of the 60,000 persons who attended this year's farmers' week meetings on the campus of Michigan State College stopped to operate the soils exhibit which was an audience-participation device designed to call attention to the recently revised Michigan Extension Bulletin 159, Fertilizer Recommendations for 1941–42. As a part of the seed and grain show in the basement of the new auditorium, it proved to be an effective means of pointing out the need for intelligent fertilizer selection.

The apparatus consists of a shadow box faced with lumarith screens on which were painted the analyses of several popular fertilizers now listed in Bulletin 159. The electrical circuits are arranged in such a manner that by turning the white dial any one of the 5 soil conditions listed at the head of the table shown below may be selected. For each of these soil conditions the fertilizer recommendation for any 1 of the 12 crops listed in the table is obtained by pressing the appropriately labeled push button. This illuminates the correct analysis on the shadow box. Power is supplied by a 6-volt transformer plugged into a 110-volt A. C. outlet.

The apparatus can be enlarged to include rates of application as well as analyses by adding more electrical contact points to the crop push buttons and by rearranging the circuits. Of course, by simple parallel additions the circuits may be expanded to include as many crops and as many soil conditions as may be desired. Including in the circuit a noise-maker such as a gong or buzzer to sound at the same time as a light flashes would increase the appeal of the device which costs about $30 for both materials and labor.—*A. H. Mick, instructor and assistant in soils, Michigan.*

■ A directory of Faribault County, Minn., cooperatives, prepared under the direction of County Agent C. G. Gaylord, lists officers and date of annual meeting for each organization. A brief statement on the work of the county council of cooperatives adds to the value of the booklet.

Making All Things Work Together for Higher Income and Better Living

MRS. IDA A. FENTON, Home Management Specialist, and R. R. MAUNEY, Farm Management Specialist, Arkansas

Down in Arkansas, the farmer and the farmer's wife are working together to demonstrate one of the most effective teaching devices that has yet been evolved in extension work in the State.

These farmers and their wives are the farm-unit demonstrators who are proving to their neighbors that the proper planning and coordination of the various farm and home enterprises will result in a higher income and a better standard of living.

Farm-unit demonstrations in Arkansas date back to 1937 when the Agricultural Extension Service decided that something more than single-phase demonstrations was needed to stimulate the widespread adoption of recommended farm and home-management practices.

Although single-phase demonstrations, which were as old as extension work, had proved effective in teaching better methods of production and homemaking, they had not resulted in significant improvement in farm and home management.

Farmers had stepped up cotton, corn, and other crop yields; and their wives had learned to process fruits and vegetables, but cotton money was still paying for pork and livestock feed—the farm family was still borrowing from Peter to pay Paul. And with agricultural problems becoming more numerous and involved as a result of changing world conditions, extension officials felt that a new departure in extension teaching methods was needed.

The farm-unit demonstration—the sum of all the farm and home single-phase demonstrations—was the Arkansas Extension Service's answer to this situation.

The procedure worked out for setting up the demonstration was to select a representative farm family, explain the demonstration to the family, and obtain their consent to become a demonstrator; then to collect data concerning the farm's soil types, adaptable crops, degree of erosion, and percentage of slope; make an inventory of the family's assets and liabilities; and set up immediate and long-term goals and outline specific achievements to be made within the year.

The farm-and-home plan was made during a council meeting attended by each member of the family, the county extension agents, and the farm-management and home-management specialists. The first three steps were left to the discretion of the county extension agents. Responsibility for supervision was shared by the county and district extension agents and the specialists.

Next to the planning of all farm and home activities on a unit basis, the most important aspect of the demonstration to extension officials was the provision for farm and home records. Each family was provided with a record book.

Record keeping on a farm-unit basis, by presenting a picture of all expenditures and cash returns, has influenced the farm family to discard or modify practices—traditional and otherwise—which impeded the family's attainment of a higher income and a better standard of living.

As there was no precedent for this type of demonstration, the extension staff decided to try it out with a limited number of families for the first year. Agents in 14 counties were asked to select 1 family each to initiate the program, the families to be representative of all the income levels and major types of farming in the State.

Three Demonstrations to a County

Response of the farm people to the new demonstration has been very encouraging—so much so that the number of demonstrations has been steadily increased until at present a total of 230 farm families—an average of 3 to a county—are participating in the program.

The progress of these 230 families has made the farm-unit demonstration the effective teaching device which the Extension Service had hoped for. For example, there are the N. P. McConnells who have a remodeled home, electric conveniences, and a larger dairy herd since they became farm-unit demonstrators in south Sebastian County, according to Joyce S. Bell, home demonstration agent, and Lloyd Waters, county agent. The McConnells live on their own 40-acre farm northeast of Greenwood.

Selected as farm-unit demonstrators in the fall of 1937, they began remodeling their house in 1938. They jacked up the house and leveled it, added a large living room across the front, and then reroofed, re-sided, underpinned, and painted the house. New windows and screens and concrete entrance were added. The interior was repainted, and the woodwork and floors were stained; a bookcase, clothes closet, and kitchen cabinets were built; and three mattresses were made from home-grown cotton.

Furnishings purchased include curtains and window shades, circulating heater, two linoleum rugs, bed, clothes cabinet, pressure cooker, and aluminum kitchenware. Electrical equipment added includes a radio and lights. The McConnells also plan to buy a washing machine, a refrigerator, and a roaster.

A complete live-at-home program is the goal of the McConnell family. They have a year-round garden, a poultry flock, hogs, dairy cows, and a home orchard. Mrs. McConnell does the family sewing and makes from $30 to $60 a year sewing for other people. In his spare time, Mr. McConnell does carpenter work for neighbors, adding from $400 to $600 to their annual cash income.

In the fall of 1937, when their plans as farm-unit demonstrators were first made, the McConnells had two Jersey heifers. Now they have a herd of four cows and six heifers.

They are planning to acquire more land adjoining their farm to use for pasture and meadow so they can increase their livestock numbers.

The wisdom of planned farm management is also illustrated by the results of the first year of the farm-unit demonstration conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Garner in the Village Community, Greene County, according to Mrs. Geraldine G. Orrell and D. V. Maloch, county extension agents.

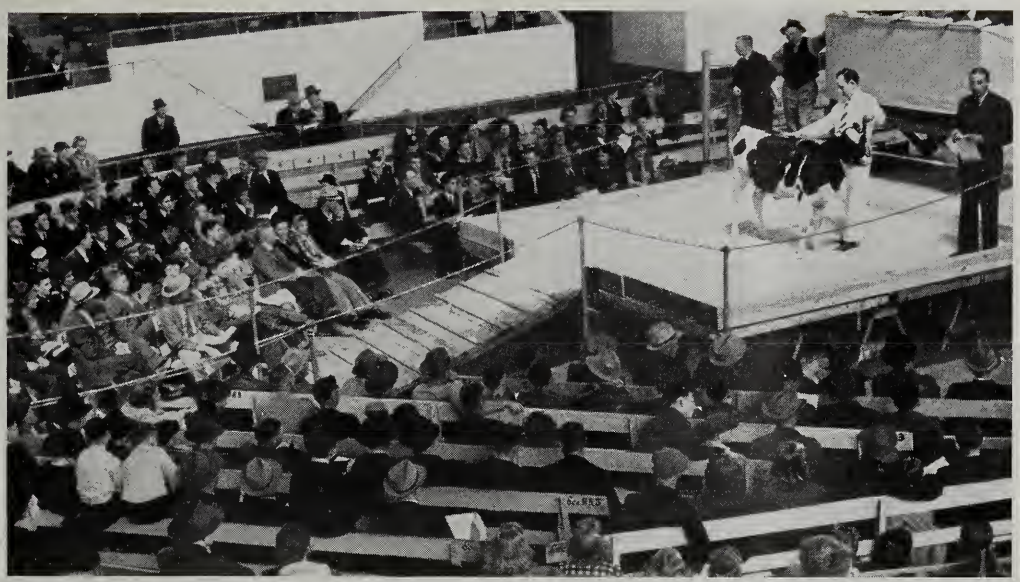
Believing that livestock is the best basis for a successful farming program in their section, the Garners began such a program by obtaining a registered polled Hereford bull and 8 registered polled Hereford cows, building a new cattle barn, and improving pastures and meadows. They plan to keep their registered heifers until at least 15 registered cows are available for a permanent breeding herd.

The family—Mr. and Mrs. Garner and three children, James, 15, Valicia, 13, and Geraldine, 11—is well-fed; for, besides having an adequate vegetable garden, home orchard, 50 hens, and ample dairy products for family use, Mrs. Garner canned 953 quarts of meat, fruits, and vegetables in 1939. Also, she realized $122.95 through the sale of surplus products.

The family is well-clothed, too, thanks to Mrs. Garner's skill with the needle.

The live-at-home program practiced by the Garners includes recreation in the home and participation in community activities.

Off to a Good Start



Bidding was lively at Nebraska's first State-wide 4–H purebred dairy calf sale. Calves were bought for club members from 16 different counties.

■ Nebraska's first State-wide 4–H purebred dairy calf sale, held in April, was a big success.

The idea of this type of sale was conceived by M. L. Flack and M. N. Lawritson, extension dairymen, as a means of obtaining top-quality calves within the State for club members. Previously, it had been necessary to travel hundreds of miles outside of Nebraska to obtain quality dairy calves.

An interbreed committee made up of representatives from the Nebraska Holstein, Guernsey, and Jersey associations, along with the extension dairymen, hand-picked 43 calves from outstanding herds throughout the State. All of them were from dams on test or with production records already behind them. This committee also mapped out detailed arrangements for the sale. Field representatives of the national breed organizations were on hand to discuss type and breeding from an educational standpoint.

Professional auctioneers and others interested in club work donated their services. Records were carefully checked to make sure that each buyer was a 4–H Club member, or was bidding for a club member. L. I. Frisbie, State 4–H Club leader, was superintendent of the sale, and many of the youngsters were accompanied by parents and county agents.

Although most of the calves went to the eastern third of the State, there were scattered buyers from as far west as the Colorado border and several through the central part of the State. In all, the successful bidders represented 16 different counties.

Breeders and club members alike were well satisfied with results of the sale. One breeder commented, "We're more interested in seeing that the boy or girl who gets the calf makes good than we are in the sale price." As for the club members, it meant a chance to get better-quality calves than most of them had ever before had an opportunity to buy.

Other comments: Governor Griswold—"I've just been discussing defense problems with the State defense council. One of our greatest weapons of defense lies in the production of livestock."

Senator Butler—"One of the most pleasant experiences of my life was helping to start a boy in 4–H Club work—a youth who later became a successful farm manager in my home community."

Wind Erosion—A Rarity

"Wind erosion is becoming a rarity in Stanton County, Kans., since a group of local people launched an attack that whips dust storms in their infancy," reports M. L. Robinson, assistant extension economist in Kansas.

This is the way it works: Community AAA committeemen make periodic surveys of their townships to determine whether any land is blowing. If a field is blowing, the county AAA committee and the county commissioners are notified. The county committee sends a notice to the landowner stating that the land must be listed or otherwise taken care of by a specified date—otherwise a penalty of 25 cents an acre will be deducted from the AAA payment for that farm. At the same time, the county commissioners send a notice to the landowner that if the land is not taken care of by a specified date, they will list the land to prevent wind erosion and charge the costs to the owner as taxes. During the growing season, the commissioners plant sweet sorghums or Sudan grass on all land they list. If it is necessary for the commissioners to control wind erosion on a piece of land, no AAA payments for that land will be approved by the county AAA committee.

This unified program had its beginning in 1937 and is a brain child of County Agent Harold O. Wales and his county land-use planning committee. Soil blowing was bad at that time, every community of the county being affected. There was general support for a program that would get results. The county agent, the county commissioners, and the AAA developed a plan for obtaining operators for unoccupied farms, these operators receiving AAA payments for controlling soil blowing. Fields not otherwise handled were listed by the county commissioners. About 10 percent of the land in the county was taken care of in this manner, the remainder being handled by regular farm operators who were encouraged by the fact that abandoned land next door was at last being protected.

In 1938 only about 3 percent of the land in the county needed to be protected by the emergency measures and more favorable weather conditions permitted production of cover crops on most of this acreage.

The following year the county organized a wind-erosion-control association to take care of such abandoned, blowing land, but only six quarter-sections were leased. The problem was being handled.

In 1940 and 1941 no leasing by the county association has been needed. The coordinated attack checks soil blowing promptly before isolated local trouble spots spread to become a general menace.

■ Extension Forester W. Ira Bull reports that a compilation just made available by the Forestry Department of the Michigan State College shows the number of trees distributed in Michigan for forest plantings of woodlands, shelterbelts, and windbreaks has now reached more than 4 million annually. In 1925 only 250,000 trees were distributed. There has been a sharp increase since 1936 when the total number of trees distributed reached about 650,000. In 1939 the figure was a little over 2 million; and, as indicated, it doubled in 1940.

■ MABEL MOORE, special home demonstration agent in Union County, Tenn., recently completed 26 years as agent in that State. About 50 home demonstration agents in her district, members and former members of home demonstration clubs, and the present and former district agents honored her at a luncheon. Margaret A. Ambrose, assistant director of extension, presented an Epsilon Sigma Phi pin set with a diamond, a gift from the present and past extension workers.

Two Agents Win National Fellowships

John W. Pou.

Erna Ruth Wildermuth.

■ Two extension agents, Erna Ruth Wildermuth, home demonstration agent of Curry County, N. Mex., and John W. Pou, assistant agricultural agent of Iredell County, N. C., will come to Washington in October for 9 months' study, having won the 1941–42 national 4–H fellowships of $1,000 each. These fellowships are being sponsored for the third year by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Inc., Chicago, Ill.

The winners were selected in national competition from 27 applicants—15 young women and 12 young men, representing 22 States. They were chosen by an extension committee composed of Barnard Joy and H. W. Gilbertson of the Federal Extension Service and Martha Leighton of the Pennsylvania staff.

This is the eleventh year that two 4–H fellowships of $1,000 each have been offered in national competition to a young man and a young woman with outstanding 4–H and college records. For the first 8 years, beginning in 1931, the 4–H fellowships were given by the Payne Fund of New York City. All the 4–H fellows have been farm reared and have, for the most part, worked their way through college.

The current fellows who are just rounding out their year in Washington are Jean Shippey of Binghamton, N. Y., who is on leave of absence from her duties as club agent in Broome County, N. Y., and Theodore T. Kirsch of Coquille, Oreg., who was assistant secretary of the Coos County, Oreg., Agricultural Conservation Association.

As Iredell County's assistant county agricultural agent, John W. Pou is still actively engaged in 4–H Club activities in his home county where he grew up on a farm. The April number of the REVIEW carried an article by Agent Pou describing the county's cooperative 4–H bull association which he organized. A brilliant 6-year 4–H Club record includes, in addition to several 4–H Club offices, such recognition as delegate for 3 years to the State 4–H short course, 1934 National 4–H Club Camp delegate, and member of the State 4–H Honor Club in 1934. His main interests were his dairy-calf projects which brought him many county, State, and several national awards.

"Since my days as a 4–H Club member, I have had a desire to be a part of the extension organization and to help in the promotion of the 4–H Club program," said Mr. Pou. "I am particularly interested in the fine attitudes and citizenship a club member develops through his club work and community activities. I have seen so many concrete examples of 'just country boys and girls' developed into such fine and active citizens and community leaders through 4–H and older-youth programs in Iredell County that I definitely feel it is one of the greatest and most important programs any person can have a part in."

Erna Ruth Wildermuth, home demonstration agent of Curry County, N. Mex., hails from Arizona. Ruth grew up on a farm in Maricopa County where she was an active 4–H Club member for 8 years. She excelled in her club activities and was a delegate to State Round-up every year except 1934 when she was a delegate to the National 4–H Club Camp, Washington, D. C. She was a delegate to National 4–H Congress in Chicago in 1933. She was in charge of the judging and demonstration contests and the dress revues at the Maricopa County 4–H Fair in 1934, 1935, and 1936. She was in charge of the judging and demonstration contest and dress revues at the State Round-up in 1935, 1936, and 1937. Each year she assisted in training the judging and demonstration teams of Maricopa County.

Miss Wildermuth has been affiliated with the New Mexico Extension Service since college graduation. She is coauthor of the New Mexico 4–H Leaders Handbook and assisted in compiling the State 4–H Song Book. As home agent in Chaves County, she assisted local club women and girls in conducting community and county-wide social meetings to develop "self-made" recreational activities. She organized two orchestras and one 4–H glee club in the county. She has had considerable radio experience, having presented weekly 15-minute broadcasts.

Recreation Flying Squadrons

The New Hampshire Extension Service uses a system of recreation flying squadrons, each made up of a number of people who, through study and experience, are equipped to lead recreation for the benefit of the members of their own organization or of other groups.

The purposes of the plan are to give training and a feeling of confidence to people interested in recreation leadership as a hobby or possibly eventually as a vocation; to give aid and service to many more groups than can now be reached by extension agents, teachers, ministers, and others whose schedule will not permit of an extended service in the recreation movement; and to demonstrate to groups the possibilities of recreation leadership development within their own membership.

A recreation flying squadron has not less than six members with a variety of recreation skills and interests.

Each squadron organizes and begins to collect recreation materials from the extension department, from publications available in the locality, and from the individual worker's personal collection. A series of training meetings is scheduled for study and practice with the assistance of an extension worker or other trained recreation leader. Specific leadership duties are assigned to workers according to ability: Master of ceremonies; quiet-game leaders; mystery-game leaders; active-game leaders; musical-game leaders; song leaders; accompanists; stunts and charade leaders; and others as necessary and as abilities are found or developed. A publicity agent is necessary to acquaint other organizations and the public with the services available and a business agent to fill requests for services by making up the personnel of teams for special occasions and dates, and to arrange for transportation and similar details.

Young Pennsylvania Beekeepers

EDWIN J. ANDERSON, State College, Pennsylvania

When the honeybee is idle it robs, if possible, other colonies, bringing about general disorder in the bee yard. In addition, it may carry back American foul brood to the colony which will cause the destruction of the colony if not of the entire apiary. So it is with the youth of the Nation; idleness develops various evils, one of which may be social upheaval. It would seem, therefore, that every effort should be made by the numerous organizations of this country to keep our youth busy.

The 4–H Club work, of which the 4–H bee clubs are a part, represents a step in this direction. The bee club develops in the young people a fundamental interest in bees and honey; it gives them experience in social activities such as organized recreation, and it develops their ability to express themselves at meetings. The club work teaches the members how to keep financial records and how to market honey.

The success of the club work depends largely upon the local leader and the time given the club member by the leader, the county agent, and the bee specialist. Beekeeping is a science of many details, and no one person can master these details in a year or two, especially when he or she has not so much as seen inside a hive before. It would seem, therefore, inadvisable to initiate a 4–H bee club unless each member can be given at least five visits during the year by a competent adviser.

This type of club work has one handicap not encountered by other forms of clubs. That is the sting of the bee, which may discourage a member or cause other trouble on the farm, bringing general disrepute on the bees and this form of club work. An effort is made to avoid this type of discouragement by using care in selecting a site for the colony and by coaching the club member in the use of the bee veil and smoker.

The club work begins in February or March when the prospective members meet to hear about the bee-club work and decide whether or not they wish to become members. The bees and supplies are ordered as soon as the members elect a leader and obtain the money for their equipment. The final decision for membership must be made at the second meeting which is held soon after the first. The club department cooperates in organizing the club and conducting the social program.

When the equipment arrives, the group gets together and assembles it so that it will be ready for the package bees when they arrive. Members owning bees or using colonies purchased locally buy sufficient equipment to put their bees in first-class shape. Each member is given a record book so that he or she may keep account of such items as expenses and labor.

Future meetings have to do largely with problems of management, such as introducing package bees, swarm control, and requeening. An effort is made to visit the members at critical periods of the season. The second-year or older members have a swarming problem to contend with which may or may not be a problem for the new members.

A social program of games or recreation is included with the educational program whenever possible. The social program may include the cutting of a bee tree, a picnic, a Christmas party, or games. The social activities help greatly to maintain interest in the more serious phases of the club work.

The year's program is concluded in October or November with a round-up. Six bottles of extracted honey and six sections of comb honey are shown at the round-up. The record books are checked and completed, and the cost per pound for producing the honey is computed so that the member may know what the honey cost per pound and whether or not he has made a profit. A section-wrapping contest is often staged at the round-up. This contest gives every member an opportunity for some experience in this phase of marketing.

A demonstration of honey cookery and the use of honey in the home is included with some of the round-ups.

Forest County, where 21 bee-club members have done a good job, is the only county in the State where no active cases of American foul brood were found by the inspectors last summer. Their 1940 records show a profit of $263.95 and an average cost of 7 cents per pound.

The production and cost records of all bee-club members show that the average production per colony largely determines the cost per pound. When the average production per colony was 57 pounds in 1930, the cost per pound was 11 cents. When production was 85 pounds per colony in 1932, the cost was 8 cents; and when the average production was 132 in 1936, the cost was 4 cents per pound. In 1940 the average production was 56.4 and the cost per pound 8½ cents. The records also show the value of package bees as compared to wintered colonies. The Forest County records show an average of 88 pounds from the wintered colonies and 107 pounds from the package bees.

OADR Director

M. Clifford Townsend, author of the first article in this number, has been identified with agriculture for the last 20 years. He owns and operates a 360-acre farm in Grant County, Ind. He was one of the founders of, and director of organization for, the Indiana Farm Bureau and was Commissioner of Agriculture for Indiana from 1933 to 1937. In addition to his agricultural activities, he has been a school teacher and a superintendent of schools, State representative, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor.

When his term as Governor of Indiana expired, Mr. Townsend came to Washington in the winter of 1941 to be special agricultural adviser to Sidney Hillman, Associate Director General of the Office of Production Management. Shortly after the agricultural defense activities, formerly lodged in the National Defense Advisory Commission, were transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Townsend was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard to head the office.

Mr. Townsend is a member of the Office of Production Management Plant Site Committee, representing rural and semirural communities.

The Office of Agricultural Defense Relations is charged with developing programs and policies designed to supply sufficient agricultural commodities to meet the needs of the United States and of the democracies and to provide agriculture with sufficient labor, tools, and transportation to carry out its part in the defense effort. In administering its program, the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations is utilizing the trained personnel of the Department of Agriculture. David Meeker, formerly assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, serves as assistant director.

EXTENSION RESEARCH

Studying Our Job of Extension Teaching

4–H Leaders Assume Many Responsibilities

The typical volunteer leader devotes the equivalent of about twelve 10-hour days per year to 4–H Club work. This time is divided among many jobs that extension workers expect the volunteer leaders to perform. In a study of Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin leaders the work done by the typical leader was summarized as follows:

Getting the club under way, enrolling members and helping them select projects, planning the year's program, and developing support and cooperation—12 hours.

Preparing for, attending, and guiding the regular monthly club meeting—12 evenings (3 to 3½ hours each).

Helping members individually, visiting their homes, training them for demonstration and judging work—20 hours.

Preparing for, attending, and guiding special events in the local community, such as parties, picnics, tours, exhibits, achievement days, and programs for parents—3 to 5 events (4 to 6 hours each).

Preparing for and attending county (or State) events such as rally, fair, and achievement day—3 days.

Helping to determine results by helping with project records and summarizing club accomplishments—6 hours.

Attending leader-training meetings—4 to 6 evenings, or 2 to 3 days.

Pointers on Exhibits

A careful study of health exhibits at the world fairs in New York and San Francisco have yielded results of value to extension work. The exhibits were judged by experts and laymen. The enumerators counted the people who saw each exhibit. Enumerators followed the people around as they viewed the exhibits and timed their stay at each exhibit with a stop watch. The time spent at the exhibit was compared with the amount of time required to read the exhibit. The difficulty of the reading material in the exhibit was checked. Individuals were asked to look at the exhibit and tell what message that exhibit was designed to convey. In order to check on the clarity of the exhibit a "quiz corner" was used to determine the extent to which the message "got across."

Practical conclusions resulting from the study to date are:

(*1*) Have no exits between the beginning and end of the exhibit, or if an exit is unavoidable make the exit as unattractive as possible. The "pull" of an exit is strong.

(*2*) The message to be conveyed must be the focus of attention; it must stand out clearly.

(*3*) Reading material should contain easy words. The use of even common professional words may be misleading to the public.

(*4*) A mass of statistical data exhibited with pictures and unattractive reading is "passed up" by four-fifths of the audience.

(*5*) Even "expertly" designed exhibits may impart misinformation. "Expert" judgment of the value of the exhibit is frequently wrong. After all, the general public is the "expert."

(*6*) Tests can be used as an educational method when the results are not used against a person. The method of giving questions based on the material to be taught to members of group meetings and discussing the answers has been found to arouse active interest in the material to be taught.

Which Homemakers Participate?

Do the nonparticipating homemakers in extension have fewer resources and less education than do the participants? A study made during 1940 of 234 homes in Parke County, Ind., showed that homemakers in 48 percent of the homes had never taken part in extension work. The two groups of homemakers—those taking part and those not taking part in extension activities—differ in many respects.

The participating homemakers ranked considerably above the nonparticipants in estimated cash income for family living. The income of 86 percent of the families of nonparticipating homemakers as compared with the income of 49 percent of the families of participating homemakers was estimated to be less than $500. A higher percentage of the nonparticipating families had received some form of relief during the past 2 years than had the participating familes.

More of the women taking part owned their homes. Their farms were larger, averaging 22 more total acres and 30 more rotation crop acres than did those who were not taking part.

More of the participants owned automobiles and many more of them were able to drive automobiles. Their homes were much better equipped with electricity, telephones, radios, running water, sinks with drains, flush toilets, power washing machines, refrigerators, sweepers, and pressure cookers.

The participants produced a slightly more adequate food supply such as milk, butter, eggs, fowls, hogs, and beef.

More of those taking part subscribed to daily and weekly papers. Twice as many of the participants had schooling beyond the eighth grade.

Fifty-eight percent of the homes studied reported changes in home making practices due to extension influence, and the homemakers had made practical use of the information received, as an average of 3.2 practices were changed per home.

It is apparently true that rural people of slightly more means and education make better use of the educational opportunities of the Extension Service. In many instances extension influence is a factor in stimulating higher economic and educational standards.

Volunteer Leaders Report Difficulty With Some Jobs

Several studies of 4–H leaders have indicated that the jobs with which they have the most difficulty are:

Developing parental and community cooperation.
Helping members complete project records.
Training members in demonstration work.
Training members in judging.

In addition to these four problems, B. J. Rogers, club agent in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., found that in this very large county where he conducted his study the leaders had difficulty in attending county-wide leader-training meetings and 4–H events.

C. B. Wadleigh, New Hampshire State 4–H leader, reports in a study made of leaders in his State that the principal reasons for difficulty with jobs relating to project work and club meetings are: (1) Some of the 4–H members are not interested or are unwilling to do their part, and (2) the leader does not understand how to do the job.

4–H Recreation Planning

Excellent suggestions for developing a worth-while recreation program are found in Extension Service Circular 338, A Planned Recreation Program for 4–H Clubs, written by Blanche Brobeil during her 4–H Fellowship year. The first part of the circular is devoted to a discussion of theory and method; and the second part applies the method to music, games, dramatics, crafts, reading, and enjoying the outdoors.

"Through recreational activities of many kinds, young people find physical satisfaction and mental and spiritual stimulation," says Miss Brobeil. "Much of the current problem of maintenance of mental health can be met by a proper combination of satisfying work and stimulating recreation. Rural girls and boys, like their urban counterparts, have energies in excess of their needs for the daily job. In their leisure hours they see possibilities of satisfying desires and ambitions."

Mississippi's Director

■ E. Homer White, for 4 years director of extension in Mississippi and for 25 years an outstanding agricultural leader in the State, on July 1 was succeeded by L. I. Jones, extension agronomist, as director. Before his retirement from the directorship, Mr. White was honored as no other citizen of the State ever had been when a thousand of the State's leading farmers from 68 counties assembled at the State capitol in Jackson where they joined in unanimously endorsing his record as farm leader and director of extension.

During his 25 years as agricultural leader, Director White has been an agricultural teacher, a county agent, a State extension subject-matter specialist, manager of an 11,000-acre livestock and cotton farm, district extension agent, State administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and director of extension. His administrative ability was clearly demonstrated in the masterly way in which he handled the difficult refugee and farming problems during and after the 1927 Mississippi River flood when four counties in his district were completely overflowed and seven others partially inundated and when major facilities of the State Extension Service were devoted to the relief of flood sufferers until past the middle of the year.

In 1932 he assisted in setting up the State Emergency Relief Administration, from which later developed both the State Welfare Department and the State Farm Security Administration. In 1932 and 1933 he had charge of the Memphis Seed Loan Office for Mississippi in addition to his regular extension duties.

Director White served as Mississippi's first AAA administrator, organizing the plow-up campaign in 1933. The unquestioned fairness and efficiency of his administration of this important office, including the close coordination of Extension and AAA forces, blazed a trail in program administration, soil conservation, and agricultural development. His insistence on the maximum results of soil conservation and soil building for the money allotted for this purpose won the confidence of State farmers and business interests from the beginning of that work.

He was named director of extension for Mississippi in February 1937, when the agriculture of the State needed in this position the competent, progressive, and aggressive leadership which he supplied. He took the lead in organizing the State agricultural council, composed of representatives of all agricultural agencies and which through its monthly meetings has helped to shape Mississippi farm policies and programs and united farm leadership. Likewise, Director White took the lead in setting up county agricultural policy and planning committees composed of farmers and farm women and agricultural leaders.

L. I. Jones, extension agronomist at Mississippi State College, has been appointed director of extension in Mississippi succeeding E. H. White.

Mr. Jones, who is a graduate of Mississippi State College and Cornell University, has had several years of extension experience, having served as county agent, assistant director of extension, and extension agronomist. Mr. Jones served 7 years as assistant director of extension under L. A. Olsen and the late J. R. Ricks. Prior to his tenure as county agent in Yazoo County, Mr. Jones was a member of the faculty of the junior agricultural college at Raymond, Miss.

Building a Permanent Program

■ Farmers migrated from Graham County, Kans., by the hundreds during the bad drought years, many of them heading for the West Coast. Only 1,000 farm families were left in the county in 1940 to operate 321,000 acres of cropland. Approximately 80 percent of them are low-income families; about one-half are clients of the Farm Security Administration.

These families are successfully establishing a type of farm life which will withstand the uncertainties of price and weather. Credit for that accomplishment is shared in part by a number of emergency agricultural programs, including the corn-hog and wheat adjustment measures of the old AAA, emergency feed loans, and the financial assistance and guidance granted by the Farm Security Administration. Perhaps most important of all has been the extensive educational program carried on by the Kansas State College Extension Service in this county through the county farm bureau organized in 1935. The farmers who founded that county organization realized the necessity for emergency programs, and they also recognized the necessity for establishing a permanent type of agriculture which would be secure for years to come. The county farm bureau, under the leadership of County Agent L. W. Patton, has devoted its educational effort toward the promotion of such permanent agricultural practices.

The production of home gardens has been one of the leading agricultural projects. It gained its hold because the housewife faced a problem in trying to obtain enough cash to purchase vegetables. Demonstrations proved that properly protected gardens would yield good returns in spite of the hot sun strong winds, and long dry periods of the western Kansas summer. More than 100 people established definite systems of garden irrigation and windbreaks. Emphasis on home storage of the home-produced food naturally followed. As a result of this garden project, farm people of the county now can 25 percent more vegetables at home than they formerly did. Increased home production of other foods—meats, eggs, and butter—also is evident. Almost every farm has a small flock of chickens.

Graham County is the State's leading center of activity in the cotton-mattress program. It has been found that 80 percent of the persons making application to construct mattresses have not purchased a mattress within the last 10 years. More than 400 mattresses have already been made. It is expected that virtually every farm family in the county will construct one or more mattresses before the program is completed. From the growing interest in the mattress program has come a request for the cotton-comfort program as well.

Graham County is still suffering from the effects of the drought. Cattle numbers have not been rebuilt because of continued short feed supplies; but sheep numbers increased from 150 head in 1935 to 5,000 in 1940, and feed production is on the upgrade. Certified seed of adapted sorghum varieties was used to plant 9,200 acres in 1940; and 18,000 acres of land was summer-fallowed, a practice recommended in preparing land for both sorghum and wheat. Such soil-saving and moisture-conserving measures as contour pasture furrows and terracing are spreading; and an active county land use planning committee is mapping a pattern of land use that will bring a future of security to the families on the land.

Electric Lights for the Farm Home

Interest is increasing in farm home lighting in the West as more rural homes become connected with electric service. Many of the houses wired years ago are modernizing their existing lighting systems without much expense to provide better light with less glare. For example, recent figures show that about 42,000 of the 65,000 farms in Oregon have electric service. Of this number, approximately 4,700 have been added by the 8 REA-financed systems in the State.

■ Officers of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association have expressed their appreciation of the cooperation of county extension agents in availing themselves of the mailing list correction service of the Post Office Department in order to keep their mailing lists up to date.

What Level of Living?

GERALDINE G. ORRELL, Home Demonstration Agent, Greene County, Ark.

Home demonstration club women of Greene County, Ark., have completed a level-of-living survey in connection with land use planning to determine what standards of living prevail in the different soil areas of the county and what improvements are probably attainable.

One hundred and thirty-three farm women, representing as many neighborhoods, including 58 communities and every township, served as enumerators. Each woman filled out her own questionnaire, made house-to-house calls, and assisted 9 of her closest neighbors, skipping none, in filling out the list of 30 questions.

A total of 1,359 questionnaires, dealing with 5,880 people in the households, was turned in at the office. NYA helpers assisted in making the tabulations.

This compilation showed that the average age of the farm mother was 38 years and that of the father 40. Fifty-one percent of them were owners or part owners of their farms; 9 percent were sharecroppers; 28 percent were tenants, and 12 percent were farm day laborers. It was found that 24 percent of the entire group had lived in the present house only 1 year and that only 7 percent had lived in the present house 4 years; however, 27 percent had maintained the same abode for 15 or more years. These figures prompted the women to discuss arrangements for longer tenure as well as the desirability of farm home ownership.

It was further discovered that 63 percent of the homes were of frame construction, with 11 percent of them consisting of only two rooms, and that only 8 percent were perfectly screened and 3 percent had running water in the home.

Only 14 percent reported having washing machines, whereas 42 percent had pressure cookers; and here someone called attention to the need for widespread educational work among home demonstration women on the use of washing machines, as had been the case with pressure cookers.

Hardly 38 percent reported good health, with malaria listed as the most common ailment.

Indifference was the principal reason given for the 2 percent of children of school age who did not attend school at all.

Noting the prevalence of rural electric service in some communities and its lack in others resulted in definite inquiries as to how to obtain this convenience.

"Findings through this survey serve as a guide for our discussions on planning a program suited to the needs of our respective communities," said Mrs. W. A. Quinn of Big Island community, who is district vice president of the State Home Demonstration Council. "Besides, we are able to see the natural advantages of the ridge as well as the delta areas of the county; and we feel that there is much that can be accomplished for the general good through the communities' consideration of land use and program planning," she added.

Tours Teach Better Buying

DAISY DEANE WILLIAMSON, State Home Demonstration Leader, New Hampshire

Years ago when the farmer's wife went to town, she hitched old Dobbin to the shay and ambled off. But last year Belknap and Carroll County women did not go that way. The big day, a shopping tour in Laconia, found 185 of them climbing into up-to-date automobiles and hurriedly making their way to the city, united in a single purpose—to find out all they could about new fabrics, new fashions, how to buy food intelligently, and how to get their money's worth in the furniture they might buy.

It was the first two-county tour of Laconia stores. Most of these women make their own clothes, cook for good-sized families, and watch their budgets. Many also upholster their chairs and furniture. All of them take part in extension meetings and study up-to-date methods of homemaking.

City shopkeepers were surprised at the intimate knowledge these women had of how and what to buy and were occasionally "hard put" to answer their questions on warp and woof, tensile strength, virginity of wool, and guarantees of wearability.

These 185 women ranged in age from 23 to 75 years. Ninety percent of them were rural women. Some from Carroll County traveled 75 miles each way in order to participate in the tour. They hurried from furniture stores to retail grocery stores, to meat markets, to dry-goods stores. All day long they had local trucks dashing about the city, grabbing portable chairs they had just vacated and rushing them to the place where they would next sit down for further instruction.

When the demonstrator at the furniture store began his instructions in chair upholstery, the women who already knew something about upholstery watched for all the pointers they could get in selection of material, padding, tying springs, putting on final covering, and then how to clean and care for quality upholstery.

Next, the women went to self-service grocery stores where the manager instructed them on sizes, grades, and labels on canned goods, and gave them information on flour and how to buy fruits and vegetables.

The tour chairman then guided them to a hall where the local meat-market manager had half a beef, half a lamb, and a choice array of butcher knives and cleavers ready for his part of the instruction. Although most of these women had done service at butchering time on the farms, they learned how to cut meat so that choice roasts, rolls, steaks, and soupbones would be forthcoming.

The style shows were next on the program, put on by two of the leading stores. Here the women saw not only the latest coats, dresses, and hats on attractive models, but the latest in accessories, too—lovely bags and scarfs and costume jewelry. Hosiery in all styles, price levels, and colors was discussed, and information was given on what hosiery to wear with the kind and color of costume worn.

These women knew of the efforts that had been made during the past few years to get sizes of children's clothing standardized, and the manager showed them how many of his garments in stock varied as to size though the age was marked the same for all.

Labels in dresses and coats were studied; linings were examined; quality of tailoring was considered; and information on shrinking on labels was read with more understanding.

All in all, it was a most successful tour. The home demonstration agents in the two counties, chambers of commerce, and local businessmen were responsible for the effectiveness of the whole procedure. The women agreed that such a tour is an excellent way to teach better buying methods.

New Hampshire plans to have similar tours in most of the counties this year.

MINNESOTA COUNTY EXTENSION WORKERS, including agricultural, home demonstration, and 4–H Club agents, will be eligible for sabbatic leave at one-half pay during the leave period after they have completed 6 years of service, according to a recent ruling announced by Director P. E. Miller. Twenty-one States and territories are now granting sabbatic leave to county extension workers.

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Have You Read?

The American and His Food.—A History of Food Habits in the United States, by Richard Osborne Cummings, assistant professor of history, Lawrence College. XI, 267 pp. University of Chicago Press. Chicago, Ill.

Here is the first book of any consequence and real merit on the subject of food habits, together with the social, economic, and cultural implications of our changing food habits over the last 150 years. If we have an agricultural book-of-the-month club particularly for the workers in the social sciences in relation to agriculture, this book would most certainly qualify for such an honor. The principal economic end of agriculture is to furnish the food in order that people may be properly fed. From its productive and economic aspects, what we do and how we do it are largely means.

The American and His Food is the first scientific and scholarly book which gives the basic cultural history and panorama of the food habits of the American people. The author is a native of New York State who has a natural bent for agricultural history.

The present book is the result of a grant-in-aid from the Social Science Research Council. Part of the time during its preparation, the author was working in Chicago and had the opportunity of consultation with the cultural anthropologist, Dean Robert Redfield of the University of Chicago. The book is a fine example of cultural history and, as such, stands in contrast with the narrower segment which is oftentimes termed economic history.

The book has another quality which should commend it to agricultural economists, rural sociologists, extension workers, and all who are interested in education. It is remarkably clear and simply written. There are no long and involved sentences that begin at the top of the page and lumber along to the middle of the page with hanging phrases and indirect connectives. In Extension we greatly prize the demonstration method as a means to programs.—*M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work.*

Guideposts for Rural Youth, by E. L. Kirkpatrick. 168 pp. Prepared for the American Youth Commission by the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. 1940.

Anyone interested in how rural communities are meeting some of the perplexing problems of rural youth will find this book very helpful. Those communities that have tried programs which have proved effective furnish "guideposts" or the source of practical ideas for inactive communities.

Finding jobs for unemployed rural youth is a leading problem in many communities. Local surveys are proving effective in locating unemployed rural youth and in finding the right job for these youth. Special training is often a prerequisite to the job wanted. Many colleges and high schools are helping to meet this need through short courses and night schools which reach out-of-school youth. Some communities have farm and community folk schools designed to give rural youth a "fuller, richer, and more satisfying life."

Problems of health, recreation, and religion which face rural youth are being met successfully in many rural communities. Well-rounded local programs give youth a greater community responsibility and encourage their participation. It seems highly desirable that every community encourage "activities that will enlarge opportunities for the growing youth of rural areas."—*Ted T. Kirsch, National 4-H Fellowship Student.*

ON THE CALENDAR

The International Apple Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, August 5–8.

Western Regional Extension Conference, Bozeman, Mont., August 13–16.

National Food Distributors Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Ill., August 20–23.

Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., September 14–20.

Thirty-first Annual Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oreg., October 4–11.

National Dairy Show, Memphis, Tenn., October 11–18.

American Royal Forty-third Annual Livestock and Horse Show, Kansas City, Mo., October 18–25.

American Country Life Association Meeting Nashville, Tenn., October 21–24.

National Home Demonstration Council, Nashville, Tenn., October 21–22.

Fifty-fifth Annual Convention of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Washington, D. C., November 10–12.

Diamond Jubilee of National Grange, Worcester, Mass., November 12–21.

International Livestock Exposition, Chicago, Ill., November 29–December 6.

Twenty-third Annual Meeting, American Farm Bureau, Chicago, Ill., December 7–12.

■ Home gardens grown under the AAA program numbered 645,254 in 11 States in 1940, the first year the special AAA home-gardens provision was in force. North Carolina led with 156,539 home gardens eligible for the $1.50 payment. Texas was second with 148,861. The practice is again being offered in 1941 on an expanded basis. Specific requirements for earning the garden payment vary among the States. In general, they provide that the garden must contain a wide variety of vegetables to provide a well-balanced diet for the family.

IN BRIEF

A Community Building

In the Sacramento Valley of California, 35 miles up a winding mountain road from the county seat of Colusa, is a community called Little Stoney farm center. Men and women and boys and girls have been carrying on a community project here which has resulted in a community building, attractive, convenient, and landscaped. It all began back in 1926 when the families of Little Stoney farm center acquired two old schoolhouses. One was moved to the site of the other, making one building into a kitchen and dining room, the other kept in one large room for community gatherings.

A year or two later, the men of the community put on a new roof. The women served the meals during the days the men worked at the roof. About 2 years later, the families cooperated in painting the roof and the outside of the building, the ceiling, and the interior. In 1939, the women earned money enough to buy a stove and dishes, and the next year they made new curtains for the windows. In 1940, the building was wired, following the rural electrification project. In 1941, a farmer gave a used sink which was installed by the men. The women bought new fixtures which were installed soon afterward. This year plans were also made for landscaping the building, using native shrubs.

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